

Kitāb al-Sawm (The Book of Fasting)

The Discussion of Fasting

Question

What do the scholars of religion and the nation decree regarding the case where Zayd committed fornication/adultery with Hindah while fasting? What is the ruling of Islamic law on both of them? Please explain and be rewarded.

Answer

Committing fornication/adultery while fasting is a grave sin - God forbid! May Allāh grant us repentance. If there were an Islamic government, such individuals would have been given severe punishment.

In the present circumstances, if this sin has become publicly known, both individuals should be made to publicly repent and seek forgiveness. If it has only been revealed to a few people, then they should repent in front of those individuals only. They should also be advised to recite the Quran, hold gatherings of the Blessed Mawlid, feed the poor and needy, and donate items like water jugs and mats to the mosque, as these acts help in the acceptance of repentance.

Allāh Almighty states:

*{And whoever repents and does righteous deeds, indeed he turns to Allāh with [true] repentance}*¹

If this act occurred during the month of Ramadān, then as an expiation for breaking the fast, both individuals must fast for sixty consecutive days. If they miss even one fast, whether with or without an excuse, they must start the sixty fasts again.

Additionally, they must ensure that the sixty-day expiation fasts are observed in a period where ‘Eid al-Fitr, ‘Eid al-Adhā, or the 11th, 12th, and 13th of Dhū al-Hijjah do not fall at the beginning or in between.

Along with the sixty-day expiation fasts, both individuals are also obligated to make up for the single Ramadān fast that was broken.

However, if the fast that was violated was a missed [*Qadā*] fast of Ramadan or a voluntary [*Nafil*] fast, then in these cases, they only need to make up a single fast with the intention of *Qadā* [compensating].

Allāh knows best.

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¹ (*al-Qur’ān, Sūrah Al-Furqān 25:71, Juz 19, Rukū’ 4*)